

lies primarily south of a line drawn from Hertford, Perquimans County, to Tyner, Chowan County. The southern margin is approximately two miles north of Edenton, Chowan County.

Elevations within Bear Swamp range from 5 to around 18 feet above sea level, the higher elevations occurring on sandy ridges along stream channels within the essentially low, flat terrain. The northern section of Bear Swamp is drained by the Main Lateral (as defined in this project) into Goodwin Creek (previously Goodwin Mill Creek, Goodings Mill Creek), and thence into the Perquimans River. Burnt Mill Creek and its tributary streams drain the southern section into the Yeopim River.

The basin now known as Bear Swamp apparently formed as a brackish lagoon during the Sangamon Interglacial, some 70,000 years ago. Evidence of oyster reefs of the Pamlico formation at depths of 6 feet below the present surface has been reported from Bear Swamp and a similar geophysical situation north of the Perquimans River near Nicanor (Richards 1950: 40). The western edge of the swamp is blocked by a distinctive high ridge (Suffolk scarp) of sandy soils with elevations ranging upward to 50 feet above sea level. This ridge trends generally southwest-northeast and is apparently a remnant: beach line from earlier Pleistocene sea stands (Hearn 1907: 6). The Pamlico Terrace, marking the maximum sea level during the Sangamon Interglacial, lies along the eastern side of this ridge at an elevation of 25 feet above present sea level (Richards 1950: 39). Traveling eastward from Tyner (elevation 40 feet), the descent into the basin is remarkably obvious. Along this route, the Pamlico Terrace is crossed approximately .75 mile east of Tyner. The southern and eastern margins of Bear Swamp are bordered